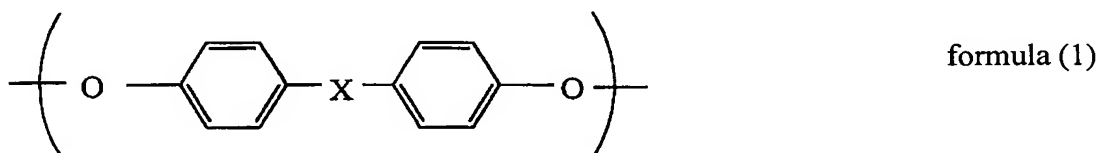


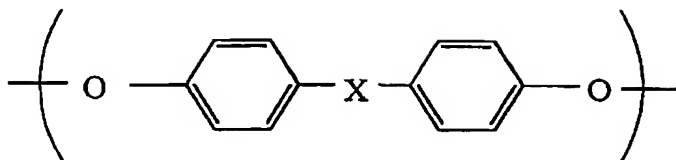
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An aromatic polycarbonate having a viscosity-average molecular weight of 16,000 or higher obtained by the transesterification method, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ratio of the weight-average molecular weight (Mw) to number-average molecular weight (Mn) as measured by gel permeation chromatography and calculated for standard polystyrene (Mw/Mn) is in the range of from 2.8 to 4.5 and ~~that~~ wherein the proportion of the number of moles of all branched structural units to 1 mol of structural units represented by ~~general~~ formula (1) is higher than 0.3 mol% and not higher than 0.95 mol%:



[[~~()~~]] wherein X is a member selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an alkylene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkylidene group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylene group having 5 to 15 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylidene group having 5 to 15 carbon atoms, and bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO-, and -SO<sub>2</sub>-[[~~()~~]].

2. (Currently Amended) An aromatic polycarbonate having a viscosity-average molecular weight of 16,000 or higher obtained by the transesterification method, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ratio of the viscosity-average molecular weight (Mv) calculated using the following formula (2) to the number-average molecular weight (Mn') calculated from the number of all molecular ends (Mv/Mn') is in the range of from 1.8 to 3.5 and ~~that~~ wherein the proportion of the number of moles of all branched structural units to 1 mol of structural units represented by ~~general~~ formula (1) is higher than 0.3 mol% and not higher than 0.95 mol%:



formula (1)

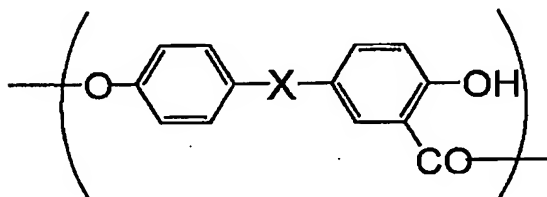
$$\eta_{sp}/C = [\eta] \times (1 + 0.28\eta_{sp})$$

formula (2)

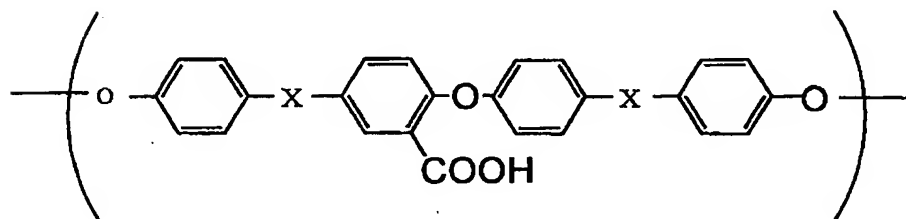
$$[\eta] = 1.23 \times 10^{-4} \times (Mv)^{0.83}$$

[[[]] wherein  $\eta_{sp}$  is the specific viscosity of a methylene chloride solution of the polycarbonate resin as measured at 20°C and C is the concentration of this methylene chloride solution, the methylene chloride solution being one having a polycarbonate resin concentration of 0.6 g/dl[[[]]].

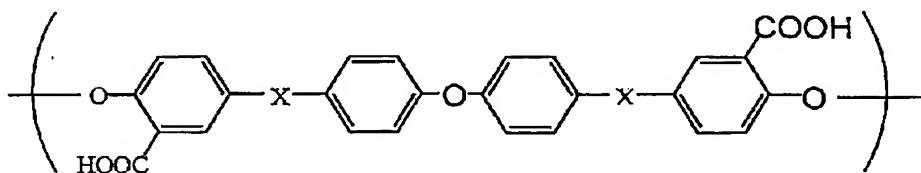
3. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, wherein the branched structural units are represented by general formulae (3) to (6):



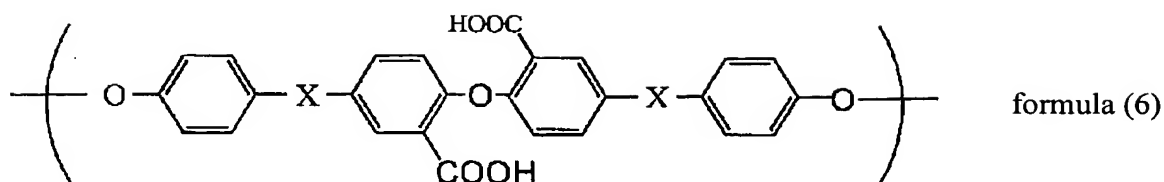
formula (3)



formula (4)



formula (5)



[[[]] wherein X is a member selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an alkylene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkylidene group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylene group having 5 to 15 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylidene group having 5 to 15 carbon atoms, and bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO-, and -SO<sub>2</sub>-[[]]].

4. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the value represented by  $\alpha$  in the following formula (7) is in the range of from 0.03 to 0.3:

$$\alpha = p^2 \rho / [1 - p^2(1 - \rho)]$$

formula (7)

[[[]] wherein  $\alpha$  represents the probability that a molecular end is a branched unit; p represents the probability that n repeating units are yielded; and  $\rho$  represents the number of branched units[[]]].

5. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the value represented by the  $\alpha$  is from 0.05 to 0.2.

6. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the value represented by the  $\alpha$  is from 0.06 to 0.15.

7. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, which is an aromatic polycarbonate having a viscosity-average molecular weight of 24,000 or higher.

8. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, which has a flow rate ratio (MVR-R), as represented by the following formula (8) and determined in accordance with JIS K 7210, in the range of from 15 to 45.

$$\text{MVR-R} = \text{MVR}(21.6)/\text{MVR}(2.16) \quad \text{formula (8)}$$

9. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the proportion of the number of moles of the branched structural units represented by ~~general~~ formula (5) to 1 mol of the structural units represented by ~~general~~ formula (1) is from 0.0001 to 0.15 mol%.

10. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the proportion of the number of moles of the branched structural units represented by ~~general~~ formula (6) to 1 mol of the structural units represented by ~~general~~ formula (1) is from 0.0001 to 0.15 mol%.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 by reacting one or more carbonic diesters with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compounds, characterized in that at least one alkali metal compound and/or at least one alkaline earth metal compound is used in producing the aromatic polycarbonate in an amount of from 1.1 to 6  $\mu\text{mol}$  in terms of metal amount per mole of the aromatic dihydroxy compounds.

12. (Currently Amended) The process for aromatic-polycarbonate production as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alkali metal compound and/or alkaline earth metal compound is used in an amount of from 1.3 to 3.8  $\mu\text{mol}$  in terms of metal amount per mole of the aromatic dihydroxy compounds.

13. (Currently Amended) The process for aromatic-polycarbonate production as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 12, characterized in that~~ wherein the process is a process for

producing a branched aromatic polycarbonate which comprises the step of conducting polymerization in at least two polymerizers, and that the final polymerizer is of the horizontal type and the reaction temperature in the final polymerizer is in the range of from 280 to 300°C.

14. (Currently Amended) An aromatic polycarbonate composition which comprises the aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 and a carbonic diester compound, wherein the content of the carbonic diester compound is 200 ppm by weight or lower.

15. (Currently Amended) An aromatic polycarbonate composition which comprises the aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 and a dye, wherein the dye comprises one or more compounds selected from Phthalocyanine Blue dyes and anthraquinone dyes, the content of the dye being from 0.01 ppm by weight to 100 ppm by weight.

16. (Currently Amended) A hollow container obtained by the blow molding of the aromatic polycarbonate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A hollow container obtained by the blow molding of the aromatic polycarbonate composition as claimed in claim 14 ~~or 15~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The hollow container as claimed in claim 16 ~~or 17~~, which is a bottle for a dairy product, a bottle for a refreshing beverage, or a bottle for water.

19. (New) The process for aromatic-polycarbonate production as claimed in claim 12, wherein the process is a process for producing a branched aromatic polycarbonate which comprises the step of conducting polymerization in at least two polymerizers, and that the final polymerizer is of the horizontal type and the reaction temperature in the final polymerizer is in the range of from 280 to 300°C.

New Application  
Preliminary Amendment

20. (New) A hollow container obtained by the blow molding of the aromatic polycarbonate composition as claimed in claim 15.

21. (New) The hollow container as claimed in claim 17, which is a bottle for a dairy product, a bottle for a refreshing beverage, or a bottle for water.